

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

AID-05 /045 W

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R 222224Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7345

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EC

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF CEOSL SEC GEN JOSE CHAVEZ

1. LABOFF MADE INITIAL CALL ON CEOSL (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE (PEPE) CHAVEZ SEPT. 19. CHAVEZ EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CEOSL AND THE EMBASSY COULD CONTINUE THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP THEY HAD ENJOYED IN THE PAST.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE FREQUENT PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF A GENERAL STRIKE SOMETIME IN OCTOBER CHAVEZ SAID THAT THE THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS (CEDOC, CTE AND CEOSL) WERE STILL NEGOTIATING BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THE STRIKE TO BE CARRIED OUT. CHAVEZ SAID THAT THE STRIKE WAS TO BE A MASSIVE, ONE DAY WORK STOPPAGE BY THE AFFILIATES OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS TO DEMONSTRATE LABOR'S UNITY AND POWER. CEOSL WANTS GOE ACTION ON MINIMUM WAGES AND OTHER BENEFITS.

3. CHAVEZ HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A MEETING WITH THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR, COL. FRANCISCO AGUIRRE AND SAID THAT THE MINISTER WAS PREPARED TO GIVE LEGAL RECOGNITION TO CHAVEZ AND HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IF ORIT WOULD RECOGNIZE CHAVEZ' GROUP AS THE LEGITIMATE LEADERSHIP OF CEOSL. CHAVEZ
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BELIEVES THAT ORIT WILL HAPPILY ENDORSE HIM, THEREBY END-

ING THE LENGTHY DIVISION OF CEOSL BETWEEN GROUPS LED BY
CHAVEZ AND LUIS VILLACRES. THE ACTION PROPOSED BY THE
MINISTER WOULD REMOVE VILLACRES' LAST LEGAL CLAIM TO
CEOSL LEADERSHIP. TO NOW THE GOE HAS REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE
EITHER GROUP.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER THE NATION-
WIDE STRIKE WILL ACTUALLY MATERIALIZE. NEGOTIATIONS FOR

IT ARE STILL BEING CONDUCTED AMONG THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS,
AND THE CTE IS RELUCTANT TO JOIN IN A STRIKE WHICH MIGHT BE
INTERPRETED AS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS
NOT YET REVEALED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD A ONE DAY SHOW OF
FORCE BY THE UNIONS.
BREWSTER

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